

PUBLISHED TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS,
BY
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THE GAME OF BILLIARDS

Mr. George F. Stinson Tells How
to Play It.

Given a Natural Gift a Man Must Begin
to Play Early in Life and Never Stop.
Americans the Most Natural Play-
ers—Frenchmen the Best.

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So high is billiards held in the estimation of almost all men and many women that I do not need to call more than general attention to it as a polite pastime. It is certainly ranks as one of the necessary accomplishments of a thorough gentleman, and as a sport it should, in my mind, be placed at the head of all; for chance enters into it in the very least degree; it requires head work of the most exacting kind, firm muscles and good bodily health, and skill that is developed only by long and careful training. It is a game that cultivates the gentlemanly qualities, courtesy, fairness, even generosity. So seldom is a dispute,



GEORGE STINSON.

much less a quarrel, generated at the table, than when, on rare occasions, high words are heard over a game, everybody concludes at once that the disputants have no business with the cue.

In the course of many years' experience as a billiard player, various questions have been put to me about the game. I shall try to give an answer to all of them at this time and to anticipate some other questions which might naturally be asked. In respect to learning the game so as to be able to play it well, billiards is much like the piano and other musical instruments. The first lesson must be taken early in life and practice must be continued as long as a man is in the field. Few men can become good performers on the piano or violin, as I understand it, if they begin to play after arriving at mature years. By that time the fingers have become comparatively rigid, and incapable of acquiring that rapid action, but delicacy of touch, without which a performance on the piano can never rank high. It is certainly the case in billiards. Delicacy and precision count for more than force, and delicacy can be acquired only by beginning early. I should say as a general rule that one who desires to become a good billiard player should begin at the age of 14 or 15. All the muscles are supple at this time and the perspective faculties alert. It is essentially the teachable age. When he begins earlier, that is at 7 or 8, as in the case with musicians, is liable to learn more by rote, and thus acquire a certain mechanical proficiency which will be of little value until by the exercise of perception and judgment the player learns how to treat a novel or difficult position on his own responsibility.

Few boys probably have any distinct idea of making great experts of themselves; and fewer parents would choose such a career for their children. Not that the calling of billiards is low in any sense, but that the opportunities for good income from it are not generally recognized. It is looked upon merely enough as a pastime, and yet combining so much mental and physical science as it does, it is undoubtedly worthy of the study required to develop its possibilities to the part of those naturally qualified for the work. This brings up an important point, not everybody, even the best player, discipline, can become what I call a good player. There are certain natural qualifications that must be possessed by a billiard player, just as there are special talents for commerce, literature, the law, or the arts. Without them a man had better content himself with the fun of the game moderately played, and in this he will find plenty of recreation, genuine pleasure, and by choosing his antagonists properly, a great deal of that emulation which is the life of all games and pursuits. It is a fact that beyond a certain point no player can improve. This point varies with each individual, and the individual it is a absolute fixed. It is not always reached by players, because not everybody knows how to develop his natural qualifications to their utmost, but what that has been done the most persistent practice will add nothing to his effectiveness.

THE ANATOMY.

The natural qualifications for billiards may be set down (1) a good eye, (2) steady hand, (3) quick and accurate perception of angles, (4) quick movement. To angles, I should add the element of success in all undertakings, persistence. Without all these a boy had better take to some other game or business, for he can never develop into anything better than a very moderate player. Anyone who appreciates the first play, and even sees how a shot must be under, but it is quite a different thing to take a cue in hand and execute the shot. A mathematician might tell an expert player a volume of facts about the angles of play, the direction a ball will take after hitting a cushion, at a given angle, the amount and kind of force imparted to a ball from a given point, and another and make a very correct statement; but it is a thousand times more that the expert would execute all the shots described while the scientist would fall on a simple carom.

Suppose, however, that a young man has all the natural qualifications for playing, then he must must be under, but it is quite after once beginning. A good eye and a steady hand must be trained, and an accurate idea of angles must be developed until it becomes second nature to select at once the right spot on a cushion at which a ball must strike after a carom. Grace of motion is all important because no man can play accurate who plays awkwardly. The arm must swing freely and naturally. It never does to grasp the cue in such a style that you are conscious of the least tension of the muscles.

TOMSTONE SOCIETY.

Belongs of the Upper-Tendon of Arizona's
Progressive Metropolis.

One of the Italian laborers on the Southern Pacific claims to be a busted Count. He had better not stir up around Tombstone. Our girls are not New York girls by about four thousand miles, and whether he is a Count or no account, they don't want any Dago in their.

It is our pleasing duty to chronicle the engagement of Tim Donoghue, the genial and over-popular bar-keeper of the "Forty Innocents" saloon and well-known social leader, to Miss Daisy Mulligan, of Madison Alley. Tim says she can "call his hand" if she is red-headed. Holly for you, Tim!

At last we have an act which! Our three thousand artists and ready the sign-painter are about to incorporate one. Ready has offered the lot over his barn for use as an act room, and a large number of police weeklies have already been contributed. All we require is a little time to become the most beautiful metropolis on the Mexican frontier.

We chronicle with interest another event in the history of our Western chivalry, i. e., the duel, yesterday, between Alf. Thompson and Poker Bill.

The contracting parties contacted in front of the post-office at high noon, having ridden into town from opposite directions. There were no seconds—not even between shots. The two gentlemen then resumed their journey, in company, in the most amicable manner, as the trouble was only about Bill's old wall-eyed horse. There will be a dual funeral from Murphy's saloon (pardon our thoughtless pun), and all members of the Arizona Bonvolut Association sober enough to march that late in the morning are requested to form line at ten a. m. as escort of honor.

The "German" given by Knights of Pythias, at Murphy's saloon, on Sunday, was one of the most brilliant affairs of the season. Several of our prominent townsmen were surprised to learn that a German consists of nothing that is particularly Teutonic, and now join in the fun poked at the three Irishmen who sent their regrets on the grounds that they did not care very much for sauerkraut and sausages anyway. Bill Simpson led in the most approved New York fashion, and as he was a dead shot and was well holed, everything went off smoothly. Some of the figures were original and, to say the least, unique.

The "class" figure, in which the gentlemen in one line lashed their opposites, was worthy of mention. The changes were signaled by the gracefully careless discharge of a six-shooter, an innovation that ought to be come popular in the East. Hung Up, The "Chinaman" did the catering in the most satisfactory manner, especially as a number of guests recovered, some napskins and table-cloths that they recently lost in their wash.—Tom Hall, in Life.

ANCIENT BATTERING-RAMS.

The Gigantic Engines of Destruction Used by Greeks and Romans.

They exerted greater power than any gun or cannon invented up to the year 1860. These battering-rams were probably as effective in knocking down a wall or staying in the side of a ship as the best modern cannon, but for making a breach, the guns are far superior. Such was the solidity and thickness of the walls of Jerusalem that Josephus tells us, it took all of one night for an enormous battering-ram to dislodge four stones!

Vitruvius has left us the description of a ram weighing 480,000 pounds; but probably the most celebrated of all the ancient moving-rams was that constructed by Demetrius Poliorcetes at the siege of Rhodes. The base of the tower was seventy-four feet square. The ram itself was an assembly of large square beams resting on wheels in size proportioned to the weight of the structure, and all riveted together with iron. The folios of the wheels were three feet thick and strengthened with iron plates. From each of the four angles of the tower a large pillar of wood was carried up to a height of 150 feet, and these pillars were inclined toward one another. The tower had three stories, communicating by two stair-cases each. Three sides of the machine were plated with iron to protect them against fire. In front of each story there were loopholes, screened by leather curtains, to keep out darts, arrows, etc. Each story was provided with machines for throwing large stones and darts; and in the lower story was the ram itself, thirty fathoms long, and fashioned at the end into an iron beak, or prow. The entire machine was moved forward by 3,500 soldiers.

But it can easily be understood that among so many men some must be more or less exposed to the enemy's darts and arrows; and so, to drive the quarry from the walls and open places, to break the roofs of his houses, and otherwise annoy him, machines were necessary for throwing missiles from small darts up to huge bowlders.—Lieutenant W. R. Hamilton, in St. Nicholas.

The Age of Pulp.

The Paper-Makers' Circular (England) says that the new epoch on which we are entering will surely be known as "the age of pulp." Beyond esparto grass, straw and wood, few fibrous substances have as yet practically taken the place once occupied exclusively by rags; but if it is possible ever exhaust the sources from which we now obtain our supplies, there will assuredly be no lack of substitutes. East Indian ramie, pine-apple fibers, bamboo, bagasse (the refuse matter from sugar-cane), rush, bracken or common fern, flax, reeds, seaweed, and other vegetable matters have all been proved capable of yielding pulp. In Scotland, hollyhock stems have been made into paper; in Ireland the malted, red clover, hop vine, and yellow water iris have been turned to the same use. In Demerara good paper has been made from the plantain. In France a patent has been granted for making paper out of leaves, which have been cut, pressed into cakes, and reduced to pulp by being steeped in lime water.

THE GIRL, NOT THE GOLD.

A Physician Explains the Cause for Metal
Coloring the Skin.

Every Jeweler has doubtless met with many curious incidents in his business career, but I think that a recent experience of mine is worth relating, and a prominent eastern Jeweler. Shortly after the holidays there came into my place a pleasant-natured young man who expressed a desire to look at some gold necklaces. It is needless to say that I sold him one. It was fourteen carats and very pretty. Two days later the door was flung open and in rushed the same young man, boiling with rage. He threw the necklace on the counter, demanded the return of his money, and threatened to expose me as a swindler.

It took half an hour to learn his story. He seemed that after presenting the necklace to his lady love he had taken her to a reception room with his present. After the first dance there was a commotion in one corner of the room, and the rivals of our customer's best girl were twisting around themselves and whispering about her.

The young lady looked in the glass and almost fainted at the sight. Her beautiful face was almost black from the friction of the necklace. She changed her mind about leaving, returned home with her brother, and sent the necklace back to her young man with a note that she did not like it.

I tested the necklace in his presence, and proved to him that it was full fourteen carats.

About that time a young physician called to purchase a scarf pin. He had overheard part of the story and asked to hear the balance, as he believed he could throw some light on the subject.

Pretty soon he laughed outright and said: "Why, sir, the trouble is with your girl and not the necklace. She has too much sulphur, iron, mercury, salt or acid in her blood, and as any of these substances has an affinity for gold the explanation is clear. I have patients for whom mercurials have been prescribed, and the result is that their fingers upon which rings are worn discolor at once." My customer cooled off and carried his purchase away.

Why the Franchiser Cried.

Some one asked a plain brother about a crying preacher, and inquired: "Why is it that he cries and the congregation does not cry? How is it that he does all the crying?" The old man replied: "If you had to stand there where he stands, and had to talk to long as he has to, and get had as little to say as he has, you could cry too."

It is not work that kills men, it is worry. Work is healthful, worry is rust upon the blade. Fear secretes acids, but love and trust are sweet juices.

A lovely flower, called the Rico-lily, grows thickly in parts of southwestern Georgia. It is extremely sensitive to the light. The blossoms fold up at night, but open in the morning. At night, while the lovely white blossoms are closely folded in their purple covering and the flowers are asleep, if a lamp is placed near them they will gradually open and turn toward it. If a strong light is placed on one side of the vase containing them, the half of the bouquet that faces the lamp will be unfolded, while the other half that is in the shadow will remain tightly closed.

A boy living near Abilene, Tex., was recently bitten by a snake, and was soon taken with convulsions. An old Mexican scraped out the bowl of a briar pipe, applied the scrapings to the child's wounds, and the next day the boy was well.

A medical certificate for a Buffalo quack told of a man being cured of rheumatism of ninety-one years' standing. It ought to have tired itself out getting up to that age.

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" " " "	1 25 " 1 50
" " " "	1 50 " 2 00
French Kid Hand-turned Oxford Ties	1 90 Cost 2 15
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Hand-turned Kid	3 00 Worth 4 50
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